

**STATE PLANNING COUNCIL  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

April 28, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.  
RI Department of Administration  
Conference Room A  
1 Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**TAC members present:**

Ms. Fran Shocket, Chair	Public Member
Ms. Melanie Jewett Army	City of Providence
Mr. Dan Baudouin	Providence Foundation
Mr. Alan Brodd	Town of Cumberland
Mr. Michael Cassidy	Public member
Ms. Marilyn Cohen	RI Chapter, American Planning Association
Ms. Elaine Colarusso	Town of East Greenwich
Mr. Robert Murray	Public Member
Mr. Barry Schiller	RI Sierra Club
Mr. Robert Shawver	RI Department of Transportation
Mr. Henry Sherlock	Construction Industries of RI
Mr. Everett Stuart	RI Association of Railroad Passengers
Mr. Mark Therrien	RI Public Transit Authority
Dr. Robert Vanderslice	RI Department of Health
Mr. Michael Wood	Town of Burrillville / RI League of Cities and Towns

**TAC members absent:**

Ms. Sue Barker	Greenways Alliance
Mr. Mark Carruolo	City of Warwick
Mr. Russ Chateaufeuf	RI Department of Environmental Management
Mr. Kevin Dillon	RI Airport Corporation
Dr. Judith Drew	Governor's Commission on Disabilities
Mr. Paul Romano	Public Member
Ms. Jane Sherman	Public Member
Mr. Jim Soctomah	Narragansett Indian Tribe
Mr. Michael Walker	RI Economic Development Corporation

**Others in attendance:**

Ms. Barbara Breslin	Federal Highway Administration
Ms. Eugenia Marks	Audubon Society of RI
Mr. Kevin Viveiros	Pare Corporation

**Statewide Planning Staff Present:**

Mr. Jared Rhodes  
Ms. Karen Scott  
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso

Chief  
Assistant Chief  
Executive Assistant

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Shocket called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. She then took a moment to introduce and welcome two new members; Ms. Melanie Jewett Army, representing the City of Providence and Ms. Elaine Colarusso, representing the Town of East Greenwich.

**2. Approval of March 24, 2011 Meeting Minutes— *for action***

Upon motion of Mr. Baudouin to approve and seconded by Ms. Cohen, the March 24, 2011 minutes were accepted unanimously.

**3. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

None.

**4. Transportation Finance Subcommittee, Guiding Principles – *for action***

Mr. Rhodes took a moment to recapitulate the Committee's decision to formulate several guiding principles for transportation financing reform. Mr. Rhodes then thanked the following individuals for attending the Transportation Finance Reform Subcommittee meeting that was held on April 7, 2011: Amy Pettine, RIPTA; Harriet Holbrook, RIPTA; Diane Badorek, RIDOT; Linsey Cameron, SPP; Michael Moan, SPP; Dan Baudouin, The Providence Foundation; Michael Cassidy, public member and Alan Brodd, Town of Cumberland. Next, Mr. Rhodes distributed a revised version of the Subcommittee draft and reviewed the minor editorial changes that had been made since the distribution of the TAC meeting packets.

With the staff presentation concluded, Mr. Baudouin commended staff for their work on the efforts and motioned to approve the revised draft. Ms. Cohen seconded the motion. After considerable discussion Mr. Schiller put forward a friendly amendment to the motion replacing the word "Rail" in principle 4 with "Transit".

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Baudouin moved to accept the proposed amendment. Ms. Cohen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After further discussion, the Committee recommended that the "Guiding Principles" be distributed to the following individuals under the Chair's signature: the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the minority leaders on both sides, the Chairs of the Senate and

House Finance Committees, and the Co-chairs of the Senate Commission on Sustainable Transportation Finance. Mr. Cassidy moved the submittal to all of the above individuals and Mr. Baudouin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Unified Transportation Planning Work Program, Proposed FY 12 Work Tasks - *Informational Presentation***

Ms. Shocket introduced Ms. Karen Scott who presented the draft Work Program for the coming fiscal year. Highlights of those items in which the TAC engaged in discussion are as follows.

Surface Transportation Plan (Task 1005)

Ms. Scott noted that the last update to the Long Range Transportation Plan was in 2008. Federal Legislation requires the Plan to be updated every four years.

State Rail Plan (Task 1010)

Ms. Scott added that a Request For Proposals (RFP) had recently been published, that the deadline for responses was April 28, and that a meeting with DOT and the Subcommittee will be scheduled shortly to review the responses received.

Transportation Improvement Program (Task 1015)

Ms. Scott pointed out that this will be the major project that the Division will focus on during the upcoming year. As multiple changes have occurred during the last six years, the Division plans to review scoring criteria, conduct a new solicitation, consider reformatting the document to make it more user friendly, add additional details, and will then conduct public workshops and public hearings.

At this time, Mr. Baudouin asked if new projects would be solicited. In response, Ms. Scott indicated that was the current intention. Mr. Baudouin then asked if a new solicitation would raise expectations that could not be met and emphasized that communities will need to understand that funding opportunities are limited and that projects should be presented in a realistic approach. Ms. Scott agreed and added that a financial framework will be provided. Mr. Stuart asked if the reprioritization schedule would be released later this calendar year. Ms. Scott said yes and then mentioned that Ms. Cameron created a timeline for the updated TIP and said that she would share the document at the next TAC meeting. Ms. Scott said that the final four year TIP adoption deadline is October 1, 2012.

Mr. Schiller next called attention to the fact that transportation finance reform was not called out as a specific work task. Ms. Scott said that she will add a section that discusses this content.

### Air Quality Conformity Analysis (Task 1025)

Mr. Schiller noted that the climate change issues should be included in this section. In response, Mr. Rhodes thanked Mr. Schiller for his comments and then said that last year a Legislative Commission was established and that Statewide Planning's efforts will be channeled through that group. Mr. Schiller then added that he would like to add a sentence with the following content "monitor opportunities and engage in transportation based carbon reduction strategies".

### State Land Use Plan (Task 2025)

Mr. Schiller inquired as to how the State monitors implementation of State Guide Plan Elements and asked if this information could be reported out for public review. Ms. Scott said that items such as Land Use 2025 and Transportation 2030 are reviewed on a regular basis. However, she will follow up to see how this information can be incorporated into the work program.

Mr. Baudouin suggested coordinating efforts with RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) because they are in the process of reconfiguring their Strategic Initiatives process. He then said that subcommittees have been formed to assist with the process. Ms. Scott said that she will follow up with RIEDC.

## **6. Additional Public Comment**

Ms. Marks asked when the draft Work Program would be made available for Public Comment. In response, Mr. Rhodes indicated that the Work Program is not subject to formal public hearing procedures but that he would be happy to make it available to anyone who would like an opportunity to review it. Ms. Marks then asked if this document is available electronically. Mr. Rhodes indicated that staff would make the document available on Division of Planning's website.

## **7. Staff Report**

Mr. Rhodes began by thanking Ms. Breslin and her office for approving TIP amendment No. 9. Mr. Rhodes said that the website has been updated to reflect the current tables. Mr. Rhodes also reported that TIP amendment No. 10 had been transmitted to FHWA and FTA for review.

Mr. Rhodes next briefed the TAC on research that staff had conducted regarding the procedure for filling TAC seats that had been vacated midterm by retirements or other means. In short, Mr. Rhodes reported that documented past practice has been to allow the entity that the vacated seat represents to appoint an alternate to fill out the initial appointee's remaining term. Given this, Mr. Rhodes also reported that State Planning Council member Deller has appointed Ms. Melanie Jewett-Army to fill out the term of Ms. Linda Painter and that State Planning Council Member Sequino has appointed Ms. Elaine Colarusso to fill out the term of Mr. Lee Whitaker.

Mr. Rhodes then took a moment to inform the Committee that the Senate Study Committee on Sustainable Transportation Funding (SSCSTF) had been appointed as previously urged by the TAC, that the SSCSTF has been meeting and that Bob Shawver and Kevin Flynn recently provided presentations over viewing the funding crises and the means used by the TAC in prioritizing transportation investments.

Lastly, Mr. Rhodes reminded TAC members the public hearing on the Draft Rhode Island Airport System Plan would be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 6:00 PM at Warwick City Hall.

## **8. Additional Public Comment**

None.

## **9. Other Business**

Dr. Vanderslice introduced the concept of Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) noting that he would like to place the topic on a future meeting agenda and to try and incorporate the technique into the review and scoring of future TIP solicitations. Ms. Shocket agreed and said that since the Committee is gearing up to review the TIP scoring system as a whole, now would be the opportune time to investigate whether its feasible to integrate HIA's into the process. Mr. Rhodes stated that staff would work Dr. Vanderslice to docket an appropriate conversation for the next meeting.

Mr. Shawver next briefed the Committee on the need for approximately \$2M in emergency pavement protective structures for Matunuck Beach Road in South Kingstown RI. He indicated that the need was driven by continued storm erosion which is jeopardizing the roadway; that permits for the work had been received from the Coastal Resources Management Council; and that RIDOT's intention was to schedule the work under the TIP's Pavement Management Program. A brief discussion ensued and Ms. Breslin indicated that the proposed scheduling was an appropriate approach.

Mr. Schiller next announced that Committee member Barker was recently involved in a serious ski accident and will not be in attendance for the next few months. In addition, Mr. Schiller announced that the annual bring your bike to work day will be held on May 20, 2011.

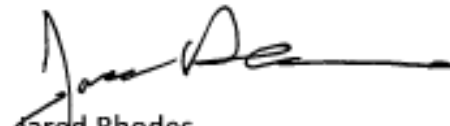
Mr. Cassidy then took a moment to thank Mr. Flynn for his well-written letter to Senator John Tassoni regarding the proposed creation of a new Complete Streets Council.

Ms. Jewett-Army closed by announcing that on Monday, May 16, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. the City of Providence would be hosting a bicycling forum at 30 Exchange Street. During that time, the results of the bike feasibility study will be announced; which was funded by the Planning Challenge Grant.

## 10. Adjourn

Upon motion of Mr. Cassidy seconded by Mr. Baudouin, the TAC unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Jared Rhodes  
Acting Secretary